



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Drew H. Wrigley
District of North Dakota

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 5, 2009

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/nd/>

CONTACT: JULIE HOUGH

PHONE: (701) 297-7400

FAX: (701) 297-7425

**Drayton Man Pleads Guilty to Sexually Exploiting a Child
and Possessing Child Pornography**

FARGO - United States Attorney Drew Wrigley announced that on May 5, 2009, **Laurence Pelletier, Jr.**, of Drayton, North Dakota, appeared before United States District Court Judge Ralph R. Erickson on child pornography charges. **Pelletier** waived indictment and made his first appearance on charges of sexual exploitation of a minor and possession of material involving the sexual exploitation of minors. **Pelletier** pleaded guilty to both charges.

Pelletier, 31, pleaded guilty to possessing child pornography depicting the sodomy of a one-year-old child and possessing images of prepubescent children involved in sexually explicit conduct.

The incidents occurred in October 2005 in North Dakota. A seven-year-old girl disclosed being molested by **Pelletier**. The North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation obtained a search warrant for **Pelletier's** residence and found images of child pornography on his computer. Electronic media and a digital camera were seized, which forensic analysis later revealed to contain images of child pornography, including an image produced by **Pelletier** involving the sodomy of a one-year-old child.

Pelletier

page two

The case was investigated by the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation.

This case was brought as a part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

Assistant United States Attorney Jennifer Klemetsrud Puhl prosecuted the case.

-end-